



# SENATOR RUNNER'S WEEK IN REVIEW

A WEEKLY REVIEW THAT WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED AND UP-TO-DATE



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## No Gas Tax for Californians

The California Environmental Protection Agency's (CalEPA) Climate Action Team announced this week that they are drafting proposals to meet the executive order that commanded the state to reduce "greenhouse gas" emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

One of the Climate Action Team's proposals is to establish a so-called "public-goods charge" on gas that would most likely be assessed at the gas pump. The climate team noted that a charge of 2.57 cents per gallon would be comparable to the existing public-goods charge on electricity, but they have not determined the exact amount that would be charged to Californians. They claim that this new "public good" fee would raise \$408.6 million given that Californians use roughly 15.9 billion gallons of gasoline a year. However, the team did not specify how that money would be used. This "public-goods" fee on gas to cut climate-changing emissions would be a first in the nation.

This is a ridiculous proposal that must be stopped before it gets started. Let's call this what it really is, a new gas tax. We just slashed the car tax, the last thing we need to do is create a new gas tax.

Working Californians are beholden to the wildly fluctuating increases in gas prices. It can dramatically affect a family's budget when there are swift and dramatic increases to the price of gas. If we want to do something for the public good, then we need to be finding ways to decrease consumers' cost, not increase them. Working Californians need gas to get to work and provide for their families. Not only would a gas tax increase the costs of driving to work, it would disproportionately affect Californians with long commutes, like many in my district.

The team that is creating this proposal knows it will not be popular. In the *Sacramento Bee*, one Energy Commissioner said, "I have to be careful how I talk about it. The campaign will begin against it before it's proposed." Of course it won't be popular. Californians will fight against it, as it won't improve the "public good", but will take away more of Californians hard-earned money to give to the state government. The bottom line is that the price of gas is too high and we should not

### News of the Week

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[Governor Didn't Believe That Tookie Had Reformed](#)

[Suit Filed Against UC For Giving In-State Tuition to Illegal Immigrants and Not to Legal Citizens Who Are Out-of-State](#)

[Liberal Legislators Propose Moratorium to Stop Death Penalty in California](#)

[LAUSD May Pay for Once Free Property](#)

[Legislators Visiting Israel Find Highly Similar Issues](#)

[New Mayor is Sworn In for the City of Santa Clarita](#)

[Adelanto City Council Gets into the Spirit of Christmas](#)

be searching for ways to increase it.

While this team may be assigned to finding solutions to meet the requirements of the executive order, there are many other options to explore before taxing Californians for the gas they need to go to work and function in their daily activities. I propose that the team go back to the drawing board.

I will urge the Governor and the Legislature to not even consider such a proposal.

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